Again in our country, in the second half of the eighteenth century, when knowledge was confined to a microscope itA|vf when the spirit of the medieval religious revival \vus exhausted or transformed into domineering militarism; w h<!m meaningless ceremony usurped the place of religion <UKi superstition elbowed out reason; when the sense of t5^ on<:; Supreme God was dissipated into a myriad pantheon, -lnd races set themselves against one another in mortal hostiI^Y; when caste distinctions were accentuated into haughtiness *or* servility and natural feelings were atrophied by niortiiyni^ practices; when morality was fossilised into unthinking cnst < H n; when kingdoms were set up and blown down like .bi-il:>i'>3^ and victories celebrated by devastation or forced/ convers ft'..:>n: when rights in property were arbitrary and intercoiirst* between men and men was forbidden by insecurity; wlwn this ancient land was in the very throes of a huge trial «^«i tribulation with limb torn from limb, hand raised a^ra,xn-»t hand, heart turning away from heart; when, above all, the s *y*-1 n t of India, laid low in the dust by the sheer exhaust ion <^ internal division and strife, by social and religious tyr«xin.ny that not merely tolerated but exalted among others, tlu"

inhuman practice of suttee (the burning alive
of Pliiulti
widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands)
cried lot" *i
great reformer, unifier, re-in vigorator; Raj a
Ramrn o ! n < i *n*
Roy appeared to recall her to God's righteous
ways, to ccmj un*
up her drooping spirits into hopeful service
and focus tun*
shattered energies into a united strength in
diverse bran ol'xrs
covering the whole area of national life.

In other words, side by side with his social,
education uil»
religious, reform-activities, Rammohan Roy
strove hard for
the political amelioration of his countrymen
and in fact "was
the first Indian to sow the seeds of India's
future political
independence. He is the father of a new race of
iTiclL-m
heroes, the foremost of the Universalists of the
rnnetecmth
century. HeJheralds a new epoch in Indian
history. His